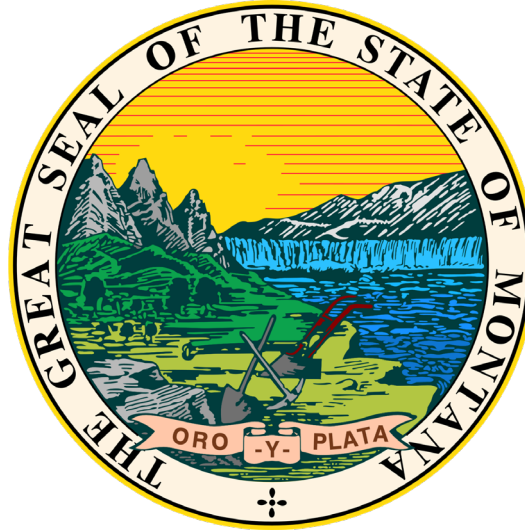


Department of Military Affairs

State Administration Veteran's Affairs Interim Committee Agency Update



Brigadier General Trenton Gibson

The Adjutant General

July 30, 2025



Department of Military Affairs Leadership



DIRECTOR – THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
Brigadier General Trenton G. Gibson

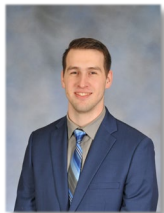


DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Brigadier General Renea Dorvall

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE



Chief Financial Officer
Janae Grotbo



Chief Human Resource Officer
Damien Maricich



Chief Information Officer
Mike Paulsen-Fuller

DIVISIONS



MTNG Youth Challenge
Melissa Robbins



STARBASE
Kara Tangedal



Disaster & Emergency Services
Delila Bruno



MT Veteran Affairs
Kelly Ackerman



**Army National Guard
Construction & Facilities Management Office**
Matthew Dorrington



**Air National Guard
Base Civil Engineer**
Lt Col James Miller



Montana National Guard Leadership

Montana National Guard Command Team



Brigadier General
Trenton Gibson



Command Sergeant Major
Keith Deboo

Montana Air National Guard Command Team



Brigadier General
Buell Dickson



Chief Master Sergeant
Amber Westie

Director of Joint Staff



Brigadier General
Michael Moreni

Montana Army National Guard Command Team



Brigadier General
Renea Dorvall



Command Sergeant Major
Dennis Mora



68th Legislative Session Update



Agency Bills that Passed (4)

Bill #	Short Title
HB 53	Revise law allowing for troop labor to execute projects
HB 66	Adopt most recent federal military codes and regulations
HB 72	Revise enlisted militia compensation for State Active Duty
HB 81	Revise law to change supervision of veterans' affairs division administrator

Agency Bills that Failed (1)

Bill #	Short Title
HB 334	Generally revise disaster and emergency laws

Non-Agency Bills that Positively Impact DMA (4)

Bill #	Short Title
HB 496	Amend laws related to the retrocession of jurisdiction over federal lands
HB 553	Generally revise military higher education act
HB 566	Generally revise decennial veteran study laws
HB 708	Allow all persons serving in the reserves to be eligible for certain CDL waiver



68th Legislative Session Update



HB2

- Increase of 1 HR FTE
- Funding for implementing multi-factor authentication (MFA) on DMA's secondary non-state network. This will greatly enhance security and brings DMA into compliance with State cybersecurity policy.
- Increase of 3 Admin Assistants to support Veteran Service Offices
- Increase of 3 Case Managers for MT Youth Challenge
- Converted 11 modified positions to permanent in the Montana Veterans Affairs Division
- Added operational costs for State Veteran's Cemeteries

Study Bills:

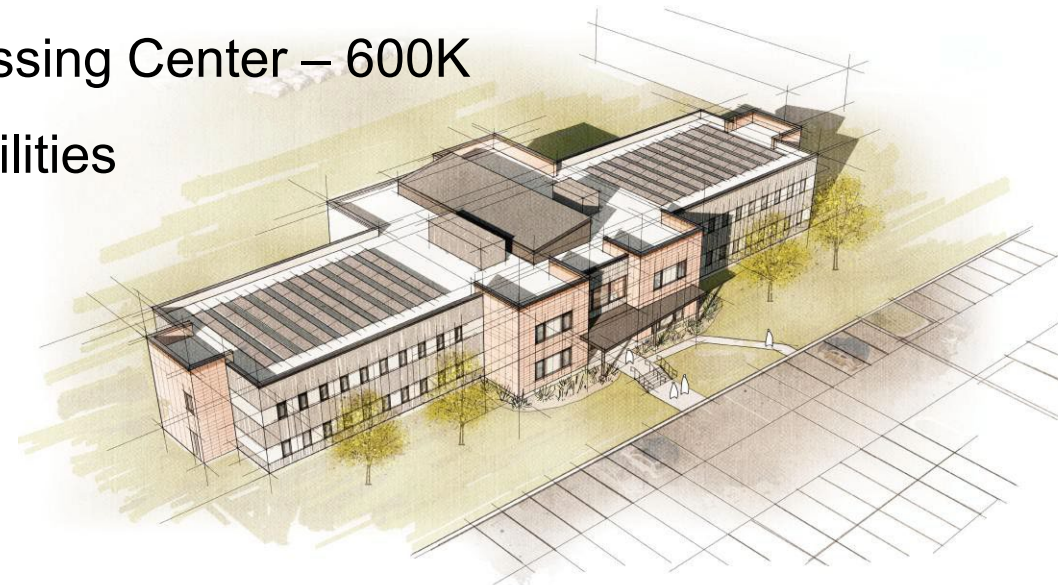
- HJ 56 – study resolution of search and rescue services and funding
 - DES administers reimbursement for search and rescue operations



68th Legislative Session Update – HB 5



- **Federal Spending Authority – 83.2M**
- **State Spending Authority**
 - 27M for long range building projects (LRBP)
 - SMART Deferred Maintenance Program Statewide – 1.5M
 - Billings Limited Army Aviation Support Facility, Phase 2 – 23.1M
 - MT Air National Guard New Drop Zone – 1.8M
 - MT State Veterans Cemetery, Interment Processing Center – 600K
 - 40K – Operations and Maintenance for existing facilities





Disaster & Emergency Services

Service Driven, Problem Solvers, Every Day

Agency Vision: Establish a Ready and Resilient State

Operational Mission: Serving Montanans before, during, and after disasters.

Goals:

- Ready the State for Disaster
- Coordinate Statewide Disaster Response
- Mitigate Disaster Impact
- Recover From Disaster





Montana Veteran Affairs Division



MISSION: to establish a statewide network of services for discharged veterans and their families. Provide services and assistance for all Montana veterans and surviving spouses and family members.

- Montana Veteran Affairs Division (MVAD) serves over 85,000 veterans.
- MVAD consists of 45 staff and oversees two programs:
 - Veteran Services Program with 9 offices state-wide
 - Veteran Cemetery Program with 3 cemeteries





Montana Youth Challenge Academy



YEARS OF
OPERATION

26

TWO SESSIONS
PER YEAR

50+
STAFF

LOCATED ON
UMW
CAMPUS
DILLON, MT

12 MONTH
FOLLOW-UP

GRADUATES TO DATE

4,292



24/7 OPERATION



MISSION

ASSISTING MONTANA'S AT-RISK YOUTH, 16-18, WITH DEVELOPING THE PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, AND EDUCATIONAL SKILLS NEEDED TO BECOME PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS



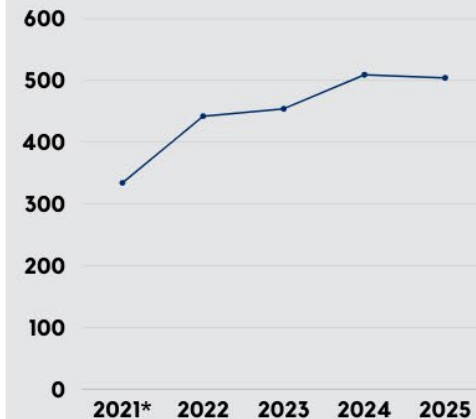
VISION

TO BE THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE EDUCATIONAL SETTING FOR PROMOTING THE SUCCESS OF MONTANA'S AT-RISK YOUTH



15 CREDIT COLLEGE
LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE

RISING NEED



GROWTH IN APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE ACADEMY. *LIMITED CAPACITY DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS.



OVER
10

JOB/TRADE SKILLS
AND VOCATIONAL
OFFERINGS PER YEAR

16,863

SERVICE HOURS
COMPLETED BY CADETS
IN SFY 2025





STARBASE Montana Program



AS OF JULY 2025,
STARBASE HAS SERVED

30,800

MONTANA YOUTH
SINCE 2007

STARBASE MONTANA
SITES INSTRUCT AN
AVERAGE OF

2,000

STUDENTS EACH YEAR

OF 306 GRADUATING SENIORS
IN GREAT FALLS & HELENA

90%

STILL FEEL THEIR TIME IN
STARBASE WAS
VALUABLE

32%

PLAN TO PURSUE A STEM
OCCUPATION DIRECTLY BECAUSE
OF THEIR TIME AT STARBASE



Montana Army National Guard



- Diverse Force Structure – 40 units stationed in 14 communities across Montana
- Army Transformation Initiative
- Combat and other Training Center Exercises in 2025
 - 631st Chemical Company – Guardian Response joint exercise at Camp Atterbury, IN
 - 260th Engineer Company / 230th Engineer Company to Joint Readiness Training Center
 - A Company, 372nd Division Sustainment Support Battalion to National Training Center
 - 1049th -1052nd Fire Fighting Group – Northern Strike joint exercise in Camp Grayling, MI
- Deployments:
 - 190th Chemical Reconnaissance Detachment
 - 1 Team – CENTRAL COMMAND (Returned in July)
 - 1 Team - EUROPEAN COMMAND (Fall 2025)
 - 1052nd Fire Fighting Group - EUROPEAN COMMAND (2026)
- Search and Rescue – Aviation units conducted 4 SAR in 2025

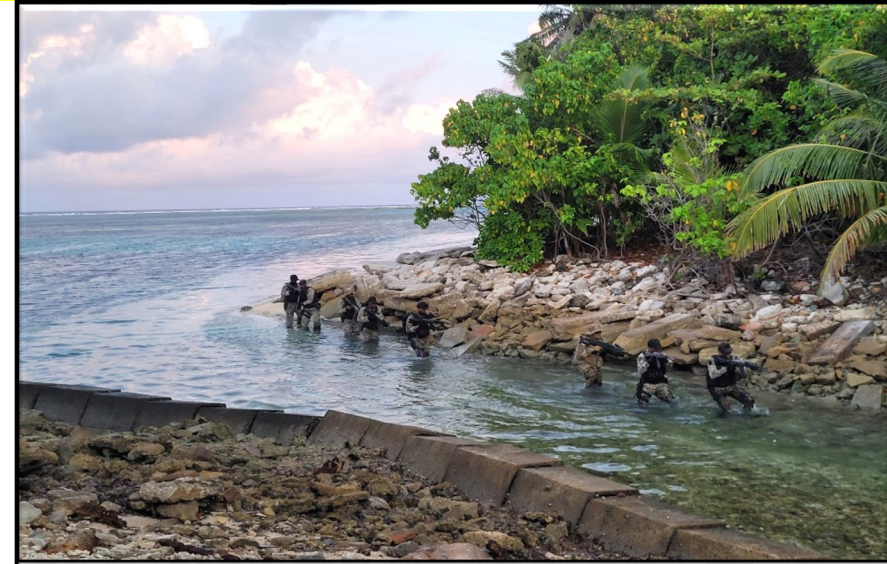




State Partnership Program



- Montana National Guard has partnerships with 4 nations:
 - Kyrgyzstan – since 1996
 - Turkmenistan – since 2021
 - Sri Lanka – since 2021
 - Maldives – since 2022
- The State Partnership Program (SPP) conducts 40+ security cooperation events annually across two combatant commands.
- The SPP is lead planner and implementor for several Component Command (3-star command) exercises. Black Marlin in Maldives (May)
Ak Shumkar in Kyrgyzstan (JUN)



MTNG conduct insert with Maldivian SoF at Exercise Black Marlin



MTNG Medical experts conduct medical trauma training during an exercise in Kyrgyzstan



MTNG conducts Urban SAR training



US Ambassador Viguerie and MTNG conduct senior visits in Central Asia



Montana Air National Guard



- **120th Airlift Wing**

- 8 C-130H Hercules converting to 8 C-130J models beginning in Oct 2025 with first A/C arriving in spring 2026
- Currently deployed to AFRICOM with 152 personnel and 4 C-130H Aircraft
- Operating at 99% end strength: 835 of 846 Airman assigned
- Missions: Tactical Airlift, Aeromedical, Natural disaster relief, wildland firefighting



- **219th REDHORSE**

- Construction and Engineering
 - Horizontal (Asphalt / Concrete)
 - Vertical (Structural construction)
- DRBS – Disaster Relief Bed-Down Set
- Operating at 112% end strength at 140 personnel assigned with a projected increase to 178 by FY27
- \$70mil Military Construction project programmed to support construction of a new compound on base



Questions?

